Production of oranges

†11. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to promote the production of oranges across the country;

(b) whether the oranges produced in the country are exported to other countries; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to patent the oranges produced in Darjeeling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme on (i) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North - Eastern State (TMNE) including Sikkim since 2001-2002 which was extended to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the year 2003-04 and (ii) the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the remaining States and Union Territories from 2005-06, for the holistic development of horticulture. Bringing more area under cultivation of horticulture crops including orange cultivation through area expansion is one of the main components under both the schemes. Under both the schemes, for the cultivation of oranges, assistance is being provided to the cultivators @ 75% of cost of cultivation of Rs. 30,000/- per ha subject to a maximum of Rs. 22,500/- per ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary, over a period of three years.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has been exporting small quantities of oranges to different countries. During 2006-07, India has exported 30110 Metric Tonnes of oranges amounting to Rs. 2914.00 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

Milk obtained by use of hormone injections

†12. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information has been received that hormone injections are given to cattle to obtain more milk from them in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States from where such information has been received; and

(c) the extent to which the milk obtained by use of these hormone injections is harmful to health and their ill effect on the health of the cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department has not received any information from the State Governments regarding administration of hormone injections to cattle to obtain more milk.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.